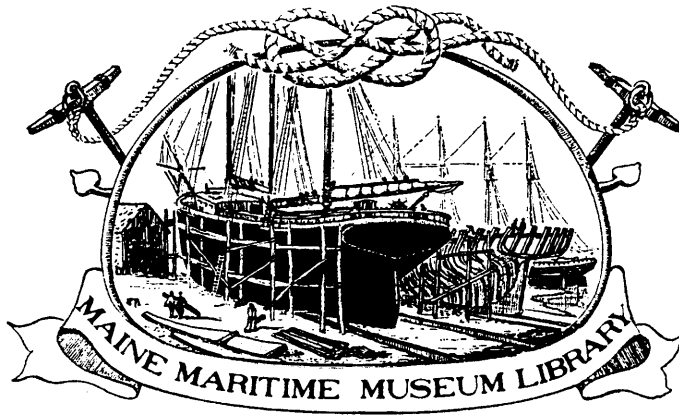


**Maine Maritime Museum Library**

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**Inventory  
for  
Manuscript Collection  
MS-70**

**Captain Samuel Patterson Papers, ca. 1794-1837**

by  
Elizabeth Singer Maule

February, 1996

Shelf feet: 0.7  
Number of boxes: 1 1/2

This inventory is the product of a grant from the  
**Davis Family Foundation.**

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## Abstract

**Patterson, Samuel**, *Captain*, 1767-1849.

Papers, ca. 1794-1837.

1 1/2 boxes (0.7 shelf feet).

Ship captain from Wiscasset, ME, and Augusta, ME.

Papers of Capt. Samuel Patterson (1767-1849), a ship captain who made many coasting voyages at the end of the eighteenth century before switching to transatlantic voyages. Includes log-books, accounts, and memoranda for many early vessels from the Wiscasset area. One vessel, **Jane** (brig), was captured by a French privateer in 1798. Patterson also had a vessel **Ganges** (ship) impounded by the British during the War of 1812. Also includes personal and household accounts and some accounts for the Birch Point Grist Mill. All accounts are scattered among the volumes, making the study of any one vessel or topic difficult.

Gift of Kennebec Historical Society, 1990. G90.30.

Finding aid in repository folder level control.

Added entries: Patterson family Tinkham, Seth, Major Rice, Warren Wiscasset, ME Shipping Privateering United States--History--War of 1812 Mills and millwork Account books Log-books West Indies trade Birch Point Grist Mill (ME) **Jane** (brig) **Ganges** (ship) **Mount Vernon** (ship) **Courier** (sloop) **Jefferson** (schooner).

## Acquisition

The Capt. Samuel Patterson Papers were preserved by his third son, James Howard Patterson, who changed his name to James Howard. After his death his widow, Hannah (Neal) Howard gave the papers to the Kennebec Historical Society on October 16, 1899. Nearly ninety years later when the KHS was disbanding, these papers were given to Maine Maritime Museum. Many of the volumes in the collection actually have labels pasted in stating their provenance.

## Restrictions

There are no restrictions on the use of the Capt. Samuel Patterson Papers.

## Foreword

Processing of this collection and the preparation of the inventory were made possible by a grant from the Davis Family Foundation, Falmouth, ME. Researchers may also wish to consult *A New and Correct Chart of the Western and Southern Oceans*, ca. 1750, [G94.63.1], once owned by Capt. Patterson.

## Biographical Note

Samuel Patterson was born in Pownalborough, ME (now Dresden), on February 5, 1767. He was the son of Capt. James and Margaret (Howard) Patterson of Cushnoc (near Augusta) and the grandson of Dea. David Patterson, who settled in Augusta with Col. John North in 1735. Samuel was at sea by at least the 1790's and in command of local coasting vessels. About 1797 or 1798 he seems to have switched to making longer transatlantic voyages, although he did make additional coasting voyages into the early nineteenth century. Many of the vessels he commanded were owned by Wiscasset business men. (A list of the vessels he commanded precedes the Container List.) He apparently did not own vessels himself. Patterson lived in Wiscasset until about 1823, when he moved to Augusta this appears to have coincided with the end of his active sailing career. He died in Augusta in January, 1849.

On September 4, 1808, he married Mary Tinkham (?-1870), daughter of Maj. Seth Tinkham of Wiscasset. They had eleven children:

Joseph Wood (1809-?) m. 1834 Mary J. Sawyer 6 children

Mary (1811-1814)

Samuel (1814-?) m. 1838 Sophronia Gorden 1 child

Mary Elizabeth (1816-1873) m. 1835 Joseph E. Gannett 14 children

James Howard (1818-?) m. 1862 Hannah Neal he later dropped Patterson  
from his name and was the preserver of these papers

Catherine Woodman (1820-?) m. 1839 Samuel B. Morse 6 children

Margaret (1822-?) m. 1842 George F. Cooke 5 children

Sarah Bowman (1824-1841)

Octavia Bowman (1826-?)

Harriet Newell (1828-?) m. 1861 Otis Taylor 6 children

William Henry (1832-?) m. 1858 Anna Castle.

After their marriage the Pattersons boarded with her father and others until 1811, when they set up their own household. Later, when he was not at sea, Patterson was involved with farming and mills, although his exact relationship with the Birch Point Mills in Wiscasset remains unclear from the papers themselves. He frequently had boarders living with the family, and bought lottery tickets for canals.

## Scope and Content

The contents of the Capt. Samuel Patterson Papers consist almost exclusively of soft-bound account books, some of which contain sections of log-books for various voyages, and log-books. Unfortunately Patterson seems to have used whichever one was closest to hand, without regard to what was already in the book and without regard to where material on the same subject may already have been written in any given volume. Thus each book is a random collection of accounts about several vessels, the farm and household, the mill, and miscellaneous memoranda. Even within a book all the material on the same vessel or topic will be scattered from page to page. It is not an easy collection from which to glean all the material possible, and as a result the processor has

tried to indicate in the Container List the names of most of the vessels and topics in each folder. Researchers are urged to be both diligent and thorough in their search.

The order used to arrange the books follows the chronological order of the vessels which Patterson commanded, and generally the first vessel listed in the book determines the name given to the folder.

### **List of vessels commanded by Capt. Samuel Patterson**

<b>name of vessel and rig</b>	<b>dates SP in command</b>	<b>vessel owned in</b>
* <b>Action</b> (ship)	1809	?
* <b>Asia</b> (ship)	1811-1812	Wiscasset
* <b>Betsy &amp; Polly</b> (schooner)	1797	?
<b>Clarissa</b> (sloop)	1802	?
* <b>Courier</b> ((sloop)	1796	Fort Western
* <b>Diana</b> (ship)	1804-1805	Wiscasset
* <b>Friendship</b> (brig)	1799-1801	Pittston
* <b>Ganges</b> (ship)	1812-1813 and 1819	Wiscasset
* <b>Jane</b> (brig)	1798	Wiscasset
* <b>Jefferson</b> (schooner)	1802-1804	?
<b>John</b> (schooner)	1807	Wiscasset
* <b>Mary</b> (ship)	1809	Wiscasset
* <b>Mount Vernon</b> (ship)	1803, 1805, 1810-1813	Wiscasset
* <b>Nancy</b> (sloop)	1797	?
* <b>Nancy</b> (ship)	1809	Wiscasset
<b>Packet</b> (schooner)	1816	Wiscasset
<b>Ranger</b> (schooner)	1796	Newcastle
<b>Rufus</b> (schooner)	1810	Edgecomb
<b>Sally</b> (sloop)	1795	Wiscasset
<b>Stock</b> (schooner)	1804	Wiscasset
<b>Swift</b> (schooner)	1806-1807	New Milford
* <b>Syren</b> (schooner)	1794-1795	Hallowell
<b>Townsend</b> (ship)	1796	Boothbay
* <b>Ulysses</b> (ship)	1806-1808	Wiscasset
<b>Walter</b> (schooner)	1819	Wiscasset

\* before a name indicates that there is material on this vessel in the collection.

## Container List

Box 1	Folder 1	<b>Syren</b> (sch) log-book, 1794-1795
	2	log-book, 1795 also includes manifests and captain's accounts, 1795
	3	<b>Courier</b> (sloop) freight book, 1796
	4	captain's accounts, 1796 also includes <b>Nancy</b> (sloop) accounts and crew accounts, 1797 <b>Betsy &amp; Polly</b> (sch) accounts and crew accounts, 1797 some personal accounts, 1796-1798
	5	items removed from volume in Folder 4 primarily personal accounts, 1797-1826 and undated
	6	<b>Jane</b> (brig) log-book, crew accounts, captain's accounts, 1798 also includes <b>Courier</b> (sloop) accounts, 1796 <b>Action</b> (ship) accounts, 1809 <b>Betsy &amp; Polly</b> (sch) accounts, 1797 <b>Nancy</b> (sloop) accounts, 1797
	7	items removed from volume in Folder 6 primarily personal accounts, 1814-1835 and undated also material on Birch Point Grist Mill and roads, pasturage, deed
	8	freight book, 1798 including account of cargo after seizure
	9	<b>Friendship</b> (brig) letter of instruction to Patterson, 1800 cargo accounts, 1799 crew accounts, 1800 log-book, 1799-1800 also includes <b>Jefferson</b> (sch) freight accounts, 1802 crew accounts, 1802 log-book, 1801-1802 letter of instruction to Patterson, 1801
	10	accounts, 1800, and captain's accounts, 1800-1801 also includes <b>Jefferson</b> (sch) accounts, 1801-1802 Birch Point Farm, accounts 1815-1825 (inc. roads, notes)
	11	item removed from volume in Folder 10 note, 1802
	12	<b>Jefferson</b> (sch) accounts, 1802-1803 crew accounts, 1802 cargo, 1802 log-book, 1802-1803 captain's accounts, 1802-1803
	13	items removed from volume in Folder 12
	14	<b>Diana</b> (ship) accounts 1804 crew accounts, 1804 captain's accounts, 1804 also includes <b>Ulysses</b> (ship) accounts, 1806-1807 captain's accounts, 1806-1808 crew accounts, 1806-1808 accounts of

- "Negroes employed on board, "1807  
James H. Patterson, memoranda, 1803-1808  
personal accounts, 1806
- 15 notes, 1804 captain's accounts, 1804 accounts,  
1804 crew accounts, 1805 also includes  
[**Jefferson** (sch)] cargo, 1803 personal  
accounts, 1804
- 16 **Mount Vernon** (ship) accounts, 1803, 1810 captain's  
accounts, 1803, 1810-1813 cargo, 1810  
also includes **Ganges** (ship) accounts, 1819  
**Jefferson** (sch) accounts, 1803 personal  
accounts, 1811, 1818-1824 Birch Point  
Farm, accounts, 1816 household accounts,  
1811-1813 Birch Point Mill, accounts 1823,  
carpenters' time 1818, and "tolls" taken  
1818-1819 genealogy sawmill accounts,  
1818-1819 Tinkham family
- 17 items removed from volume in Folder 16 personal  
accounts, 1817-1837 and undated
- 18 cargo, 1805
- 19 log-book, 1810
- 20 item removed from volume in Folder 19 rough page  
of log-book, 1810
- Box 2 Folder 1 **Mary** (ship) log-book, 1809
- 2 crew account, 1809
- 3 **Asia** (ship) log-book, 1811-1812 also includes **Ganges**  
(ship) log-book, 1812
- 4 crew accounts, 1811-1812 captain's accounts,  
1811-1812 accounts, 1811-1812 also  
includes **Ganges** (ship) crew accounts,  
1812-1813 captain's accounts, 1812-  
1813 [inc. after detained by British]  
accounts, 1812
- 5 **Ganges** (ship) journal, 1812
- 6 log-book, 1812 also includes accounts of Birch  
Point Mill and lumber operation, 1818-1819  
[O. S. and stored separately *Log-book*  
*Catalog*, Entry No. 139]
- 7 miscellaneous, 1812
- 8 personal accounts, 1802-1818 also includes **Nancy** (ship)  
accounts, 1809 **Ulysses** (ship) captain's  
accounts, 1806-1807 Birch Point Grist Mill,  
accounts 1815-1817 and "tolls" taken 1815-  
1818 genealogy Capt. Thos. Crosby accts.
- 9 misc., 1809-1823 [inc. Maj. Seth Tinkham]

## Added Entries/ Partial Index

Numbers after the entries refer to box and folder numbers if there is no number, then all folders contain material on this topic.

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